claims into 36 alleged Groups. These groups are organized by the specific morphogens employed in specific therapies or treatment methods (OP-1, OP-2, etc.), and the treatment methods themselves (renal failure, inflammation, etc.). This requirement is respectfully traversed with respect to the separate classification of the morphogens.

The morphogens of this invention are part of a family of molecules which applicant has found to be effective for the claimed treatment methods. In particular, and as set forth on pages 6 and 8 of the specification, the OP/BMP family is characterized by proteins which exhibit at least 70% sequence homology with the seven cysteine domain of human OP-1. Applicants note that there is no evidence that the individual morphogens comprising this family are classified in different art groups. While separate classification is not dispositive of the existence of separate inventions, it would certainly support the Examiner's allegations. In contrast, the lack of evidence of separate classification status supports applicants view that the individual morphogens should be examined together in one application. Applicants submit that examination in one application would promote an economy of effort on the part of both the USPTO and applicants.

Accordingly, in view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully request that the restriction requirement, at least with respect to the separate classification of individual morphogens, should be withdrawn. However, in the event that the restriction requirement is adhered to, applicants elect the invention of Group I (claims 1, 2, and 5-38) with traverse.

In view of the foregoing facts and reasons, prompt action on the merits of this application, and an early indication of allowability, are solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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DATE: November 2, 2001